

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122755

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, PN, OGEN

SUBJECT: PERIODIC ACTIVITIES REPORT - MAY 2 - 12, 1978

1. PRESIDENTIAL VISIT.

A. GENERAL. WITH PRE-ADVANCE PARTY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PANAMA MAY 17, PREPARATION OF SCOPE AND BRIEFING PAPERS FOR TRIP IS PROCEEDING. S/S PLANS TO ISSUE MEMO ASSIGNING RESPONSIBILITIES AND DEADLINES FOR DRAFTING PAPERS ON MAY 13.

B. EXCHANGE OF RATIFICATIONS. RATIFICATION DOCUMENTS AGREED AD REFERENDUM WITH PANAMANIAN DURING RECENT POPPER GROUP VISIT WERE, WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS, SENT TO WHITE HOUSE FOR APPROVAL ON MAY 12.

C. NSC HAS ASKED STATE TO PREPARE BY MAY 15 A STUDY OF FEASIBILITY AND POLITICAL DESIRABILITY OF HAVING CURRENTLY PENDING AID PROJECTS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT DURING VISIT.
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2. TREATY IMPLEMENTATION.

A. ROLE OF AMBASSADOR. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY ADVISED BY GEN. DOLVIN THAT DOD IS UNWILLING TO AGREE TO FORMULA PROPOSED BY AMB. JORDEN COVERING AMBASSADOR'S AUTHORITY VIS-A-VIS PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION. DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY

DUNCAN ON MAY 9 SENT TO BRZEZINSKI (NSC) MEMO (TEXT BEING TRANSMITTED TO EMBASSY) REITERATING DOD'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. THIS SUBJECT IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION HERE IN ACCORDANCE WITH DETAILS DISCUSSED DURING JORDEN-POPPER TELECON MAY 12.

B. PROPERTY TRANSFERS. THIS SUBJECT IS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN ARMY AND STATE (L/ARA) IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES THAT WILL APPLY IN CARRYING OUT THE PROPERTY TRANSFER PROVISIONS OF THE CANAL TREATY, E.G., ON THE TREATMENT OF MOVABLE PROPERTY. A BASIC PAPER PREPARED BY L/ARA IS NOW BEING REVISED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT VARIOUS QUESTIONS RAISED BY PANAMA CANAL COMPANY.

C. THE OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PREPARED IN ARA/PAN HAS BEEN REVISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDANCE FROM AMB. POPPER. COPY BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY PANAMA. PREPARATION OF MORE DETAILED SUPPORTING PAPERS HAS BEGUN.

3. BARLETTA VISIT. GOP PLANNING MINISTER BARLETTA CALLED ON AMBASSADOR POPPER, EB ASST. SECRETARY KATZ, AND TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY SOLOMON ON MARCH 11, PRINCIPALLY TO DISCUSS GOP DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND THE ASSISTANCE PACKAGE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CANAL TREATIES. SUBSTANCE OF THE BARLETTA TALKS CONTAINED IN SEPARATE REPORTING CABLES AND MEMCONS BEING SENT TO EMBASSY.

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4. FOI REQUESTS FOR DEA DOCUMENTS. A NUMBER OF CASES INVOLVING REQUESTS FOR DEA DOCUMENTS ON DRUG TRAFFICKING IN PANAMA HAVE BEEN APPEALED. WE EXPECT SAME COURSE OF ACTION WILL BE PURSUED RE THOSE DOCUMENTS OR PORTIONS THEREOF WITHHELD BY STATE. WE HAVE A ROLE IN CONNECTION WITH DEA DOCUMENTS BY VIRTUE OF HAVING RECOMMENDED THAT SOME DOCUMENTS AS WELL AS PARTS OF OTHERS BE WITHHELD FOR FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS IN ADDITION TO THE REASONS ADVANCED BY DEA FOR NON-DISCLOSURE. THE CLASSIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THE CASES IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND IT IS PROBABLE THEY WILL EVENTUALLY WIND UP IN COURT.

5. COCO SOLO CONTAINER PORT. NSC HAS ASKED STATE TO PREPARE BY MAY 15 A STUDY OF THIS PROJECT, TO INCLUDE ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF ACQUIESCING IN GOP DESIRE TO PROCEED PRIOR TO ENTRY INTO FORCE OF CANAL TREATIES, AND SPECIFIC ACTIONS REQUIRED IF WE DECIDE TO DO SO.

6. CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

A. HOUSE ANTI-TREATY AMENDMENTS. REP. HANSEN'S AMENDMENT

TO BUDGET RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PANAMA CANAL COMPANY/CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT BUDGET TO BE INCORPORATED IN GENERAL USG BUDGET WAS APPROVED BY HOUSE MAY 9 BY VOTE OF 230-171. MEASURE IS WITHOUT PRACTICAL EFFECT BUT INTENDED TO SERVE AS SIGNAL OF HOUSE DISCONTENT WITH CANAL TREATIES AND DESIRE TO HAVE NEW PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION OPERATIONS SUBJECT TO ANNUAL AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION PROCESS. A TIE VOTE (187-187) RESULTED IN THE DEFEAT ON MAY 11 OF REP. LAGOMARSINO'S AMENDMENT TO LIMIT BILATERAL AID TO PANAMA TO 25 PERCENT OF THAT PORTION OF PANAMA'S ANNUITIES UNDER THE NEW TREATIES THAT GOP DEVOTES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

B. IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION. CHAIRMAN MURPHY OF HOUSE
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MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY PLANS INTRODUCE HIS OWN BILL ON THE SUBJECT. KEY PROVISION WILL BE CONSTITUTION OF CANAL COMMISSION AS INDEPENDENT AGENCY RATHER THAN USG CORPORATION. COMMISSION WOULD THUS BE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL AUTHORIZATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS AND GREATER COMMITTEE SCRUTINY. WE ARE PREPARING STUDY PAPER ANALYZING IMPLICATIONS OF MURPHY CONCEPT.

C. SEA-LEVEL CANAL STUDY. SENATE MAY 4 APPROVED 63-29 A PROPOSAL BY SEN. GRAVEL CREATING COMMISSION TO UPDATE EARLIER SEA-LEVEL CANAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES. PROPOSAL NOW GOES TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, WHERE IT IS LIKELY TO BE DELETED.

7. OAS RESOLUTION.

A. DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING DRAFT OF POSSIBLE JOINT US-GOP RESOLUTION ON CANAL TREATIES FOR OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JUNE. PLAN IS TO INCORPORATE LANGUAGE FROM RATIFICATION DOCUMENTS AS WELL AS SOME FROM DRAFT RESOLUTION RECEIVED FROM GOP OAS AMB. PITTI LAST MONTH.

8. DARIEN HIGHWAY.

A. DOT HAS ASKED STATE'S SUPPORT IN OPPOSING OMB PROPOSAL TO DELETE FUNDING FOR RIO CONGLON-YAVIZA SECTION OF HIGHWAY FROM FY 80 BUDGET. A MEMO TO OMB IS IN PREPARATION.

9. CAVS CLAIM.

THIS COMPANY--WHICH HAS PRESENTED TO USG A CLAIM, NOW SUPPORTED BY GOP, ARISING OUT OF PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION--HAS RECENTLY SUBMITTED A NEW LEGAL BRIEF, WHICH
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IS BEING REVIEWED BY STATE AND DOT. VANCE

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